

WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM



Carpet & Drapery Cleaning

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County's Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). Below is a list of BMPs that may be applicable to your business. This list is not inclusive; refer to the WPO for further details. For more information call your inspector or the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800.

On the Job

- ☐ Use dry methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, or absorbents to cleanup. Wet cleaning methods may be implemented only if adequate precautions are taken to prevent the discharge of wash water or other pollutants from entering the storm rain system.
- ☐ Wastewater may NOT be disposed of to the storm drain system or receiving waters.
- ☐ Wastewater shall be disposed to a holding tank or sewer system, as allowed by the local sewer district. Wastewater from holding tanks shall be disposed to the sanitary sewer at the business's headquarters or at an approved location.
- ☐ Maintain cleaning equipment (tanks, hoses, and fittings) to prevent wastewater leaks.
- ☐ Wash water and rinse water may be directed to an approved sanitary sewer or landscaped area, with permission from the property owner. Landscaped areas must be capable of absorbing the water and should not cause any additional pollutants or erosion.
- ☐ Consider using non-toxic or less hazardous products whenever possible.

Materials & Waste Management

- ☐ Store all materials and waste in a manner that prevents contact with rainfall and run-off.
- ☐ Securely store all materials and equipment in the vehicle during transport.
- ☐ Use secondary containment for storage areas that are likely to create a discharge.
- ☐ Whenever possible, berm and cover all equipment storage areas.
- ☐ Maintain all storage containers in good condition; keep containers closed when not in use.
- ☐ Inspect storage areas at least once before the rainy season (October 1-April 30) and quarterly during the rainy season. Document inspections and keep records onsite for two years.
- ☐ Keep copies of procedures, materials and equipment necessary for spill response in each vehicle and at the headquarters. Promptly clean up spills and leaks as they occur.
- ☐ Contain all spills on-site. Immediately report any spills of hazardous materials that reach the storm drain system to the County's Hazardous Materials Division at (619) 338-2284 or 9-1-1 after normal working hours. Report non-hazardous spills to the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800.
- ☐ For recycling information call DPW Recycling Program at (877) R1 EARTH or (877) 713-3278.

Training

- ☐ Train all operators, employees, and workers responsible for activities that may result in an unauthorized release on stormwater BMPs appropriate to the activities.
- ☐ Training should include: preventive maintenance, good housekeeping, proper waste disposal, non-stormwater disposal alternatives, equipment repair and maintenance, spill response and recovery, recycling and BMP maintenance.
Provide corrective action training whenever a poor practice or illegal disposal practice is discovered. Document training for corrective actions or improved practices.
Maintain training records on-site and make them available upon request by inspectors.





Headquarters Grounds Maintenance

- ☐ Routinely sweep and clean parking lots and paved areas around your business.
- ☐ Where practicable, provide trash cans with lids in your parking lot to discourage littering.
- ☐ Post signs to prohibit discharges to the storm drain or receiving waters, if required by inspector.
- ☐ Sweep up dirt, leaves, and clippings on walkways, street, and gutters on a regular basis.
- ☐ Use pesticides and fertilizers according to label instructions and do not apply the chemicals before a rain event. Try using less toxic alternatives. Properly dispose of unwanted chemicals.
- ☐ Remove litter, debris, and excessive organic matter from landscaped areas.
- ☐ Adjust sprinkler heads to avoid over-watering and runoff.
- ☐ Cover and contain stockpiles of materials such as soils, fertilizer, or potting material.
- ☐ Protect disturbed slopes if more than 3-feet in height, and steeper than 3:1 (run-to-rise).
- ☐ Materials which may contaminate stormwater shall not be stored on rooftops.
- ☐ Regularly inspect and maintain rooftop equipment to prevent leaks and spills.
- ☐ Direct roof downspouts away from work areas and toward areas such as lawns whenever possible.
- ☐ Temporarily cover storm drain inlets that are located within or down gradient of your business before performing any activity involving liquids that could result in spills, leaks, or runoff.

Dumpster & Loading Areas

- ☐ Inspect all trash storage and disposal areas weekly.
- ☐ Keep supplies to clean trash and loading areas readily accessible.
- ☐ Sweep up litter and debris around dumpsters and loading areas regularly.
- ☐ Dispose of non-hazardous liquid waste into the sewer system.
- ☐ Keep dumpster lids securely closed when not in use.
- ☐ Maintain trash dumpsters and other waste containers in good condition. Contact the waste hauler to replace a damaged or leaking trash dumpster.
- ☐ Use dry clean up methods (sweeping, vacuuming, mop and bucket) to clean out waste containers; if hosing or pressure washing is needed, contain all wash water on-site for proper disposal.
- ☐ Load and unload materials in designated areas. Maintain loading equipment and repair any leaks.

Inspect Your Business

- ☐ Inspect your business annually for stormwater and non-stormwater runoff. Ensure that all non-stormwater discharges are eliminated or are captured for recycle, reuse, or proper disposal.
- ☐ Annually review your current practices and look for areas to improve.

The Watershed Protection Ordinance may be found at www.sdcdpw.org/WPO
Additional BMP information may be found at www.projectcleanwater.org/bmp



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

(888) 846-0800 • FAX (858) 495-5263

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